

Amendment No. 1 to HB2257

Ramsey  
Signature of Sponsor

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 2538**

**House Bill No. 2257\***

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1.

(a) There is created the autism spectrum disorder task force to study and make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding ways to improve access to programs and services for early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism spectrum disorders in this state.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

- (1) The chair of the health and welfare committee of the senate;
- (2) The chair of the health committee of the house of representatives;
- (3) The chair of the commerce and labor committee of the senate;
- (4) The chair of the insurance and banking committee of the house of representatives;
- (5) The commissioner of commerce and insurance or the commissioner's designee;
- (6) The commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee;
- (7) The commissioner of intellectual and developmental disabilities or the commissioner's designee;
- (8) The deputy commissioner for the bureau of TennCare or the deputy commissioner's designee;
- (9) The executive director of the Tennessee disability coalition;

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(10) A representative from Autism Tennessee, to be appointed jointly by the speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives;

(11) A representative from Autism Speaks, to be appointed jointly by the speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives;

(12) A board certified behavior analyst or licensed psychologist, to be appointed by the governor;

(13) A board certified psychiatrist, to be appointed by the governor;

(14) A community provider serving autism patients, to be appointed jointly by the speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives:

(15) A representative from the health insurance industry, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

(16) A representative from the health insurance industry, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate.

(c) The taskforce shall:

(1) Review existing data, reports, and quality of life outcomes from local, state, and national agencies for individuals with autism spectrum disorders;

(2) Assess the current and future impact of autism spectrum disorders on the residents of Tennessee;

(3) Assess the availability of programs and services currently provided for early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism spectrum disorders;

(4) Assess the effectiveness of programs and services offered and provided to individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families, including scientifically validated interventions that have demonstrated clinical efficacy;

(5) Assess the qualifications, training, and supervision of providers screening, diagnosing and treating autism spectrum disorders, and whether there are adequate provider networks for providers who treat autism spectrum disorders;

(6) Assess the availability of health care insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorders under various insurance models;

(7) Develop recommendations:

(A) To improve health care insurance coverage, screening, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders; and

(B) To improve cooperation between state government agencies and non-governmental organizations and other advocacy groups in order to guide effective public policy regarding screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism spectrum disorders; and

(8) Submit its findings and recommendations for potential legislation to the governor and the members of the general assembly in the form of a written report on or before January 15, 2015, and every January 15 thereafter, until January 15, 2017, at which time the taskforce shall cease to exist.

(d) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The speakers of the respective houses each shall appoint a co-chair from the members named to the task force. The task force shall meet quarterly and may meet more often upon a call of the co-chairs.

(e) All appropriate agencies of state government shall provide assistance to the task force upon request of the task force.

(f) If vacancies occur on the task force for any cause, the vacancies shall be filled by the respective appointing authority within sixty (60) days.

(g) Non legislative task force members shall not receive compensation, nor be entitled to be reimbursed for actual travel and other expenses incurred in attending any meeting and in performing any duties prescribed in this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.